

HONORING THE SAVANNAH
SHAMROCKS RUGBY CLUB

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize The Savannah Shamrocks Rugby Club, which is a non-profit, charity aiding organization in Savannah, GA. The club was founded in 1978 and now has approximately sixty members. The club is comprised of Military personnel, Teachers, Scientists, Doctors, Engineers, Sales people, and College students. The team plays 24 games per year in Savannah, facing competition from local teams such as Georgia Southern, Hilton Head, Columbia, and Augusta. Occasionally, the club is given the opportunity to compete against International teams such as the British Navy, South America, and Canada. There are two seasons per year, one is played in the Fall and the other in the Spring.

The main highlight for the club is the popular, annual St. Patrick's Day Rugby Tournament. This tournament is held every year on St. Patrick's Day weekend, which makes it feasible for the "out of town teams" to compete. The tournament's overwhelming popularity on St. Patrick's Day is the main reason The Shamrocks is the number one amateur sporting event economically in the Savannah area. Based on sheer numbers of players and supporters, who attend this great event, it is estimated that approximately \$3 million is generated to the local economy over this one weekend. During the rest of the year the club spends about \$42,000 per year locally, and approximately \$54,000 on "out of town" spending. The club also donates annually to local charities and in nine years the club has donated over \$25,000 to MDA. The Shamrocks have hosted this tournament for the past twenty one years, and would like to continue to host the tournament for many more years to come.

It is my pleasure to commend this charitable organization, which provides many benefits to the community beyond the intense, competitive game of Rugby.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
RICHARD BURNS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it does my heart good to stand here and pay tribute to Reverend Richard Burns as he retires from the pulpit after more than 30 years of service.

Reverend Burns has spent many years bringing hope and comfort to people in his community. Rev. Burns, at the young age of 91, has been preaching at New Mount Elem Missionary Baptist Church for 32 years. Rev. Burns has dedicated his life to the upliftment of the word of the Bible to the people and his family of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Rev. Burns was born in Vicksburg, MS and has nine children, thirty-six grandchildren and fifty great-grandchildren. With an impressive

family roster as this one, Rev. Burns will be sure to have his time filled with enjoying his family. On February 19, 2000, Reverend Burns was honored for his service. He will be truly missed. However, it is pleasing to know that he will still be in the community doing his best to be a role model for many of us to follow.

TRIBUTE TO CONSTANCE AND
DELBERT LORENSEN ON THE OC-
CASION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly tonight about a married couple that have had an incredibly wonderful and positive impact on my life. I use the occasion of the golden wedding anniversary of Connie and Delbert Lorenson on February 11 to reflect on the important values I learned from them as a young man. I learned much as a friend of the family, a frequent visitor and guest at their home in Gladstone, Michigan, and as a Boy Scout under Delbert's leadership.

In 1950, so the Escanaba Daily Press reminds us, Delbert Lorenson married the former Connie Jacks of Detroit at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Stonington. 1950 was certainly a different world, as most of us know, and the tiny town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where they were married was in some ways even more remote from today. Nowadays, it seems the expression "family values" often applies to a concept in political campaigns; in 1950 in this most rural region of the Midwest it was—and it remains—a foundation of our way of life.

Not that we thought ourselves rural or remote. Television was just about to be beamed north from Green Bay, and the Interstate Highway System was about to be born. Cars were about to become sleek and common. The world was becoming much smaller in that post World War II world for this veteran and his new bride.

In reality, however, our world would remain slower and quieter for another decade. I spent a lot of time with the Lorensens' son, Rick. Although he was one year older, we participated together in high school sports, especially in football and track and field. Perhaps most important to my ties with this family, we were also Scouts together.

Delbert was my Scoutmaster, helping Rick and me achieve the goal of becoming Eagle Scouts. So it's natural, I suppose, that when I have recalled my time with the Lorensens, the memory of working for merit badges and attending troop meetings is bound together with the memory of dinners at the Lorenson home and camping trips together.

But today, as I think of Connie and Delbert's 50 years together, the values learned in Scouting are foremost in my mind. These values aren't mere categories of accomplishment checked off as one moves up the ranks of Scouting. Scouts are taught life skills—discipline, responsibility, perseverance, teamwork, respect for others, a sense of community, sacrifice—and we were taught these skills

in the context of love, concern and a pervasive spirituality. What better skills can a couple possess to allow them to remain lovingly together for 50 years! What better skills can they teach to the next generation that might justifiably wear the label "family values!"

Rick and I have gone our separate paths, but our values were clearly formed in the same crucible. I have entered public service as a Member of Congress, and Rick has become a minister. Two other children, Tom and Pam, recently joined Rick in hosting a dinner and dance to celebrate their parents' 50 years together.

I treasure the wisdom I learned from the Lorensens. I wish them many, many more years of love, health and joy.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March 26th as Greek Independence Day. In honor of this day, The Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York is organizing the annual Greek Independence Day Parade in New York City.

The Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of Greater New York was established on November 22nd, 1937 and has made the Parade a City ritual for the last 61 years.

In a March 24, 1999, proclamation declaring Greek Independence Day, President Clinton said "Greek thought and the passion for truth and justice deeply influenced many of our nation's earliest and greatest leaders. Americans of Greek descent have brought their energy, grace and determination to every field of endeavor, and they have added immeasurably to the richness and diversity of our national life."

New York has seen this passion, energy and grace ever since early days of Greek settlement in the City and I am proud to say that New York is the home of the largest Greek community in the United States.

This national holiday in Greece celebrates the anniversary of the country's proclamation of independence in 1821 after four centuries of Turkish occupation. The war that followed went on until 1829 when finally the Turkish sultan recognized the independence of Greece.

I thank The Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York for all the contributions they have made to our community and in their efforts to make each year's Greek Independence Day Parade more memorable than the last.

HONORING THE LATE MOSES COX
AND JAMES RANSOME AVANT,
DISTINGUISHED VETERANS

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize two distinguished veterans from Georgia, Mr. Moses Cox and Mr. James Ransome